# Destination: Mars

## Activity Packet

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
**Astromaterials Research and Exploration Science (ARES)**

Houston Museum of Natural Science
Burke Baker Planetarium
Houston, Texas

# About Destination: Mars

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The lessons are designed to increase students' knowledge, awareness, and curiosity about the process of scientific exploration of Mars. As scientists look for evidence of life on Mars, they will focus much of their search in areas where volcanic heat and water interacted early in the geologic history of the planet. Two lessons in this packet on volcanoes and mapping river channels reinforce these basic geologic processes. These lessons lead directly to a set of simple activities that help students develop an understanding of the microbial life scientists will be searching for on Mars. The hands-on, interdisciplinary activities reinforce and extend important concepts within existing curricula.

## Acknowledgements


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## Educational Video

The *Destination: Mars* educational video presents a useful parallel with the lessons. The 33 minute video chronicles a simulated human mission to Mars in 2018. The six astronauts narrate their exploration through "real time" log reports. *Destination: Mars* is available as an educational video from NASA CORE, Lorain County Joint Vocational School, 15181 Route 58 South, Oberlin, OH 44074, (440) 774-1051, ext. 249 or 293, Fax (440) 774-2144. It is also a multimedia planetarium program available from Spitz Inc., P. O. Box 198, Route 1, Chadds Ford, PA 19317, contact John Schran (610) 459-5200, Fax (610) 459-8330.

## Internet

**NASA Johnson Space Center, Astromaterials Research and Exploration Science (ARES)**
http://ares.jsc.nasa.gov/education
*Contains educational material and information about astrobiology, astromaterials, and planetary missions and science.*

**Lunar and Planetary Institute**
http://lpi.usra.edu
*Contains educational material and Lunar and Mars images.*

**Mars Exploration at NASA, Jet Propulsion Laboratory**
http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov